

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter the following set of amended claims into the application. The status of all claims is provided.

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1-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended). A method of inhibiting degradation of a natriuretic peptide present in a subject system comprising a prolyl-specific DPP, comprising:

selecting said subject on the basis of a diagnosis of congestive heart failure; and  
administering one or more inhibitors of prolyl-specific dipeptidyl peptidase (“DPP”) to  
said subject in an amount sufficient to inhibit degradation of the natriuretic peptide by prolyl-  
specific DPP.

30. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein the inhibitor(s) of prolyl-specific DPP comprise a dipeptide analogue comprising an aza, azetadine, boronate, hydroxylamine, or phosphonate moiety.

31. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein the inhibitor(s) of prolyl-specific DPP comprise an antibody or fragment thereof.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing the level of natriuretic peptide function in a subject, comprising:

selecting said subject on the basis of a diagnosis of congestive heart failure; and  
administering one or more inhibitors of prolyl-specific DPP to said subject in an amount  
sufficient to inhibit degradation of the natriuretic peptide in said subject by prolyl-specific DPP.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 32, wherein one or more additional molecules selected from the group consisting of inhibitors of neutral endopeptidase and natriuretic peptides are also administered to said subject.

34-42. (Cancelled)

43. (New) A method of treatment, comprising:

selecting a subject for treatment on the basis of a diagnosis of congestive heart failure;  
and

administering one or more inhibitors of prolyl-specific DPP to said subject in an amount sufficient to inhibit degradation of B-type natriuretic peptide in said subject by prolyl-specific DPP.

44. (New) A method according to claim 43, wherein the inhibitor(s) of prolyl-specific DPP comprise a dipeptide analogue comprising an aza, azetidine, boronate, hydroxylamine, or phosphonate moiety.

45. (New) A method according to claim 43, wherein the inhibitor(s) of prolyl-specific DPP comprise an antibody or fragment thereof.

46. (New) A method according to claim 43, wherein one or more additional molecules selected from the group consisting of inhibitors of neutral endopeptidase and natriuretic peptides are also administered to said subject.